

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 06265 130556Z

11

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 122454

R 130525Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2647

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6265

EXDIS

CAMBODIA B-7

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AEMR, US, CB

SUBJECT: SIRIK MATAK'S LETTER OF APRIL 12 TO AMBASSADOR DEAN

REF: BANGKOK 6258

1. AS MENTIONED IN REFTEL (CAMBODIA B-6), SISOWATH SIRIK MATAK, HIGH COUNSELOR TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC AND ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL FIGURES IN THE EVENTS OF MARCH 18, 1970 WHICH LED TO THE OVERTHROW OF NORODOM SIHANOUK, WAS GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY BY AMBASSADOR DEAN TO DEPART CAMBODIA ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 12, IN CONNECTION WITH THE EVACUATION OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AT PHNOM PENH. HE REPLIED BY SENDING THE FOLLOWING HANDWRITTEN NOTE TO AMBASSADOR DEAN WHILE THE EVACUATION WAS IN PROGRESS:

2. QUOTE. PHNOM PENH 12 APRIL 1975. DEAR EXCELLENCY AND FRIEND, I THANK YOU VERY SINCERELY FOR YOUR LETTER AND FOR YOUR OFFER TO TRANSPORT ME TOWARDS FREEDOM. I CANNOT, ALAS, LEAVE IN SUCH A COWARDLY FASHION. AS FOR YOU, AND IN PARTICULAR FOR YOUR GREAT COUNTRY, I NEVER BELIEVED FOR A MOMENT THAT YOU WOULD HAVE THIS SENTIMENT OF ABANDONING A PEOPLE WHICH HAS CHOSEN LIBERTY. YOU HAVE REFUSED US YOUR PROTECTION, AND WE CAN DO NOTHING ABOUT IT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 06265 130556Z

3. YOU LEAVE, AND MY WISH IS THAT YOU AND YOUR COUNTRY

WILL FIND HAPPINESS UNDER THIS SKY. BUT, MARK IT WELL,
THAT IF I SHALL DIE HERE ON THE SPOT AND IN MY COUNTRY
THAT I LOVE, IT IS TOO BAD, BECAUSE WE ALL ARE BORN AND
MUST DIE /ONE DAY/. I HAVE ONLY COMMITTED THIS MISTAKE
OF BELIEVING IN YOU, /THE AMERICANS/.

4. PLEASE ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY AND DEAR FRIEND, MY
FAITHFUL AND FRIENDLY SENTIMENTS. S/ SIRIK MATAK
END QUOTE.
MASTERS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, EVACUATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO06265
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750129-0130
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750455/aaaabyos.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 BANGKOK 6258
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIRIK MATAK'S LETTER OF APRIL 12 TO AMBASSADOR DEAN
TAGS: PFOR, AEMR, US, CB, (SIRIK MATAK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006